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likely to interest and please uninstructed minds, and with the exceptions noted, we think are reliable. The chapter on the future of our planet is an imaginative picture of the manner in which mankind may eventually utilize the forces of inorganic nature.

THE FAUNA OF THE GULF STREAM AT GREAT DEPTHS.*—The investigations ordered by the new Superintendent of the Coast Survey, Professor Pierce of Harvard College, into the marine fauna of the Gulf stream, in connection with the regular duties of the survey, have begun to produce its natural result, in such valuable contributions to science, as we have now before us. The line of the present survey was "in a section between Key West and Havana, incidentally with the purpose of sounding out the line for the telegraph cable." Although the work was interrupted, and the casts made with the dredge few, "the interesting fact was disclosed, that animal life exists at great depths, in as great a diversity and as great an abundance, as in shallow water." By two casts in two hundred and seventy fathoms off Havana, Crustacea and Worms, numerous dead shells of Gasteropods and Pteropods, living Terebratulæ, and seven species of Bryozoa, besides Echini, Starfishes, and an abundance of Corals, Hydroids, and Foraminiferæ were taken. Only one species of sea-weed, however, was mixed with this luxuriant animal life, which corresponds with similar results of deep sea dredging in the European seas, and shows that "the greater number of deep sea-animals must be carnivorous." They found, also, that a porous limestone was in process of formation, "composed apparently of the remains of the same animals which were found living." In a cast made in three hundred and fifty fathoms, nothing was brought up but a few dead corals. "The Echinoderms appear to have a wide distribution in depth," and the Gorgonias (sea-fans) are represented in two hundred and seventy fathoms, by at least two species known to belong to the West Indian fauna, in moderate depths. The results of this attempt are certainly very interesting and important to marine zoölogy, although no casts were made in the deepest parts of the channel.

With our present knowledge, it is premature to assume the existence of the higher forms of animal life in the profound abysses of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, but dredging in the Gulf of Mexico may be carried to such a depth as to have a most important, if not decisive bearing upon this question, since the Coast Survey have sounded over nine thousand feet in one instance, and several times to the extent of six thousand feet.

Dredging has been very recently carried on at enormous depths by the Scandinavian expedition to Spitzbergen, for it is stated, in the November number of the *Annals and Magazine of Natural History*, that Messrs. Malmgren and Smitt have dredged up a variety of animals from a depth of 2,000 feet, near Spitzbergen.

THE BUTTERFLIES OF NORTH AMERICA.—The second part of this beautifully illustrated work has appeared, and we desire again to commend

* Bulletin of the Museum of Comparative Zoology. No. 6. Contributions to the Fauna of the Gulf stream at great depths. By L. F. Pourtales, Ass't U. S. Coast Survey.